

Ed Sheeran Is Number One Artist of Decade

What are the UK charts?

- The UK charts are a list of the biggest selling albums and singles during a week.
- The information is collected through physical sales, downloads and streaming songs.

It's official! Ed Sheeran has been named the UK's artist of the **decade** (2010-2019). He has got the award from the Official Charts Company, who organise the charts.

This is a list of the biggest-selling songs and albums in the UK. There is a **single** and an **album** chart. The biggest-selling single or album is called the number one.

Undoubtedly, Ed has had a lot of success between 2010 and 2019. In this time, he has had 12 number ones across the singles and album charts.

Ed has spent 79 weeks at the top of the charts during this decade. That's nearly 18 months! His biggest hit was 'Shape of You', spending an incredible 14 weeks at number one.

So how did Ed Sheeran become so big in the 2010s? Ed was born in West Yorkshire in 1991 but grew up in Suffolk. He started writing songs while he was at school. At the age of 16, he moved to London to get noticed.

It took a lot of **determination**, though, for Ed to achieve his dream. At first, he had some setbacks in London so he headed to the USA.

This is where his big break happened, on a trip to Los Angeles in 2010. Here, an American singer and actor called Jamie Foxx noticed his talents.

He invited Ed to record at his studio. At the same time, Ed started to become more popular through his videos on YouTube.



Illustration: Ed Sheeran is the biggest-selling artist.

A year later, he released his first album, which was called '+'. In 2014, he achieved his first number one with the song 'Sing'.

After taking a break in 2016, he released the album '÷', which went straight to number one around the world in 2017.

Ed Sheeran is not the only artist, though, that has been popular this decade.

Adele's albums 21 and 25 were the biggest-selling albums of the decade. 'Happy' by Pharell Williams was also one of the biggest singles.

The 2010s were Ed Sheeran's decade; now, they're coming to an end, who knows what we'll be listening to in the 2020s?

Glossary

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| decade | A period of ten years. |
| single | One song released by a singer or band. |
| albums | A collection of songs produced by a band. |
| determination | The ability to keep going when things are difficult. |

Questions

1. Find and copy three ways that the information for the UK charts are gathered.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

2. Why do you think artists want to reach number one?

3. 'It took a lot of determination though for Ed to achieve his dream.'

Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'achieve'.

- ☐ avoid
☐ consider
☐ discover
☐ reach

4. Put a number in the box to show the order that the events happened in Ed Sheeran's life. The first has been done for you.

- ☐ He met Jamie Foxx in Los Angeles.
☐ He had his first number 1 hit 'Sing'.
☐ Ed Sheeran released the album '+'
☒ 1 Ed Sheeran moved to London.

5. Why do you think Ed decided to go to Los Angeles in 2010? Explain your answer.

6. Write a summary of the story in 20 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Find and copy three ways that the information for the UK charts are gathered.

Physical sales, downloads and streaming songs.

2. Why do you think artists want to reach number 1?

Accept any answer that refers to the story, e.g. I think artists want to reach number 1 because it shows that their songs are really popular as they will be the biggest selling.

3. 'It took a lot of determination though for Ed to achieve his dream.'

Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'achieve'.

- ☐ avoid
- ☐ consider
- ☐ discover
- ☒ **reach**

4. Put a number in the box to show the order that the events happened in Ed Sheeran's life.

The first has been done for you.

- 2** He met Jamie Foxx in Los Angeles.
- 3** He had his first number 1 hit 'Sing'.
- 4** Ed Sheeran released the album '+'
- 1** Ed Sheeran moved to London.

5. Why do you think Ed decided to go to Los Angeles in 2010? Explain your answer.

Accept any answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think Ed decided to go to Los Angeles in 2010 because he was finding it difficult in London and wanted to see if he could be more successful in a different city.

6. Write a summary of the story in 20 words or fewer.

Accept any reasonable summary that is 20 words or fewer, e.g. Ed Sheeran is the top artist of the decade (2010-2019). He has had 12 number one hits this decade.